

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claim 1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim ~~1~~38, wherein the filtration means of the first continuous flowpath comprises a tangential filtration means and the filtration means of the second continuous flowpath comprises a tangential filtration means.

3. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim ~~1~~38, wherein the filtration means of the first continuous flowpath and the filtration means of the second continuous flowpath include a filter medium which is common to both the first and second continuous flowpaths.

Claim 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A filtration system according to claim 3, wherein the filtration means of the first continuous flow path comprises a plurality of filters, each filter defining a respective filter flowpath and having a respective filter medium disposed adjacent the corresponding filter flowpath for filtration of fluid passing through the corresponding filter flowpath, the filter medium common to the first and second continuous flowpaths being associated with a subset of the plurality of filters comprising at least one but not all of the filters and the or each filter flowpath of said subset of filters being included in each continuous flowpath, and the remaining filters of the filtration means and the or each filter flowpath of said remaining filters being included in the first but not the second continuous flowpath.

6. (Original) A filtration system according to claim 5, wherein the fluid circulating around the first continuous flowpath passes in parallel through the filter flowpaths.

7. (Original) A filtration system according to claim 6, wherein the system comprises a manifold connected to each filter and included in the first continuous flowpath, the portion comprising at least part of the manifold.

8. (Original) A filtration system according to claim 7, wherein the second continuous flowpath includes at least one bypass that allows fluid to bypass said at least part of the manifold during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

9. (Currently Amended) A filtration system to claim ~~4~~38, wherein the means for passing fluid to the first continuous flowpath comprises a reservoir.

Claim 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim ~~40~~39, wherein the second continuous flowpath includes at least one bypass that allows fluid to bypass at least part of the manifold during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

12. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim ~~40~~39, wherein the manifold is located below the filters for drainage of fluid from the or each filter flowpath not included in the second continuous flowpath into the manifold during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

13. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim ~~40~~39, including means for selectively restricting flow from the or each filter flowpath of said at least one filter.

14. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim ~~44~~39, wherein the system includes a further manifold connected to each filter and included in the first continuous flowpath, one of the manifolds providing fluid to the filters and the other one of the manifolds receiving fluid from the filters during circulation of fluid around the first continuous flowpath, the second continuous flowpath including at least one bypass that allows fluid to bypass at least part of the further manifold during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

15. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim ~~4~~38, wherein the ~~system~~first pump means includes a pump for circulating fluid around the first continuous flowpath, the pump being inactive during circulation of fluid around the second continuous flowpath, and fluid from the pump passing into the second continuous flowpath in response to said filtration of fluid circulating around the second continuous flowpath.

16. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 15, wherein the ~~system~~ second pump means includes a ~~further~~ pump for pumping fluid around the second continuous flowpath.

17. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 16, wherein the ~~further~~ pump of the second pump means has a lower throughput than the ~~first-mentioned~~ pump of the first pump means.

18. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim 16, wherein the ~~further~~ pump of the second pump means holds a lower volume of fluid than the ~~first-mentioned~~ pump of the first pump means.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim ~~19~~40, wherein fluid is passed from the manifold to said at least one of the filters via a pump located between the manifold and the said at least one filter.

21. (Currently Amended) A filtration system according to claim ~~19~~40, including means selectively operable to restrict the flow of fluid from said at least one filter.

Claim 22. (Cancelled)

Claims 23-37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) A filtration system comprising:

a first continuous flowpath for circulation of fluid therearound, the first continuous flowpath including first filtration means having an unfiltered fluid inlet means, an unfiltered fluid outlet means, and a filtered fluid outlet means, a fluid circuit coupled to the unfiltered fluid inlet means and the unfiltered fluid outlet means of the first filtration means, and first pump means arranged with the fluid circuit to circulate fluid around the first continuous flowpath, wherein fluid circulating around the first continuous flowpath is filtered and a portion of the fluid leaves the first continuous flowpath via the filtered fluid outlet means;

a second continuous flowpath for circulation of fluid therearound, the second continuous flowpath including second filtration means having an unfiltered fluid inlet means,

an unfiltered fluid outlet means, and a filtered fluid outlet means, the second filtration means comprising part of the first filtration means, a fluid circuit coupled to the unfiltered fluid inlet means and the unfiltered fluid outlet means of the second filtration means, and a second pump means arranged with the fluid circuit to circulate fluid around the second continuous flowpath, wherein a portion of the first continuous flowpath is not included in the second continuous flowpath and the second continuous flowpath has a lower volume than the first continuous flowpath and wherein fluid circulating around the second continuous flowpath is filtered and a portion of the fluid leaves the second continuous flowpath via the filtered fluid outlet means;

means for passing fluid to the first continuous flowpath in response to said filtration of fluid circulating around the first continuous flowpath; and

a valve arrangement operable to circulate fluid around the second continuous flowpath after fluid is circulated around the first continuous flowpath and to pass fluid from the portion of the first continuous flowpath to the second continuous flowpath.

39. (New) A filtration system comprising:

a plurality of filters, each filter having an unfiltered fluid inlet, an unfiltered fluid outlet, a filtered fluid outlet, and a filtration medium and defining a filter flowpath between the unfiltered fluid inlet and the unfiltered fluid outlet for tangential filtration by the filtration medium of fluid passing through the filter flowpath;

a manifold connected to each filter;

a first continuous flowpath comprising the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters, the manifold, a fluid circuit coupled via the manifold to the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters, and first pump means arranged with the fluid circuit to circulate fluid around the first continuous flowpath in parallel through the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters;

a second continuous flowpath comprising at least one but not all of the plurality of filters, a fluid circuit coupled to each filter flowpath of said at least one filter, and a second pump means arranged with the fluid circuit to circulate fluid around the second continuous flowpath through each filter flowpath of said at least one filter, wherein the second continuous flowpath has a lower volume than the first continuous flowpath; and

a valve arrangement selectively operable in a first state to circulate fluid around the first continuous flowpath and in a second state to circulate fluid around the second continuous

flowpath and to pass fluid from at least part of the manifold into the second continuous flowpath in response to tangential filtration in said at least one filter.

40. (New) A filtration system comprising:

- a plurality of filters, each filter having an unfiltered fluid inlet, an unfiltered fluid outlet, a filtered fluid outlet, and a filtration medium and defining a filter flowpath between the unfiltered fluid inlet and the unfiltered fluid outlet for tangential filtration by the filtration medium of fluid passing through the filter flowpath;

- a manifold connected to each filter; and

- a fluid assembly coupled to the plurality of filters and the manifold and including a valve arrangement selectively operable in a first state to circulate fluid through the manifold and in parallel through the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters and in a second state to pass fluid from the manifold through each filter flowpath of at least one but not all of the plurality of filters.

41. (New) A filtration system comprising:

- a plurality of filters, each filter having an unfiltered fluid inlet, an unfiltered fluid outlet, a filtered fluid outlet, and a filtration medium and defining a filter flowpath between the unfiltered fluid inlet and the unfiltered outlet for tangential filtration by the filtration medium of fluid passing through the filter flowpath;

- a manifold connected to each filter;

- a first continuous flowpath comprising the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters, the manifold, fluid circuit lines coupled via the manifold to the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters, and a first pump means coupled in the fluid circuit lines to circulate fluid around the first continuous flowpath in parallel through the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters;

- a second flowpath comprising at least a portion of the filter flowpath of at least one of the plurality of filters, the second flowpath having a lower volume than the first continuous flowpath; and

- a valve arrangement selectively operable in a first state to circulate fluid around the first continuous flowpath in a parallel through the filter flowpaths of the plurality of filters and in a second state to pass fluid along the second flowpath.

42. (New) A filtration system comprising:

a pump arrangement;

a valve arrangement;

a first continuous flowpath for circulation of fluid therearound, the first continuous flowpath including first filtration means having an unfiltered fluid inlet means, an unfiltered fluid outlet means, and a filtered fluid outlet means, and a fluid circuit coupled to the unfiltered fluid inlet means and the unfiltered fluid outlet means of the first filtration means, wherein the pump arrangement and the valve arrangement are operable in a first state to circulate fluid around the first continuous flowpath, whereby the fluid is filtered and a portion of the fluid leaves the first continuous flowpath via the filtered fluid outlet means;

means for passing fluid to the first continuous flowpath in response to said filtration of fluid circulating around the first continuous flowpath; and

a second continuous flowpath for circulation of fluid therearound, the second continuous flowpath including second filtration means having an unfiltered fluid inlet means, an unfiltered fluid outlet means, and a filtered fluid outlet means, and a fluid circuit coupled to the unfiltered fluid inlet means and the unfiltered fluid outlet means of the second filtration means, wherein a portion of the first continuous flowpath is not included in the second continuous flowpath and the second continuous flowpath has a lower volume than the first continuous flowpath and wherein the pump arrangement and the valve arrangement are operable in a second state to circulate fluid around the second continuous flowpath and to pass fluid from a portion of the first continuous flowpath to the second continuous flowpath, whereby the fluid is filtered and a portion of the fluid leaves the second continuous flowpath via the filtered fluid outlet means.

43. (New) A filtration system according to claim 42 wherein the pump arrangement includes first and second pumps, and wherein the first pump pumps fluid within the first continuous flow path and the second pump pumps fluid within the second continuous flow path.

44. (New) A filtration system according to claim 42 wherein the valve arrangement includes a plurality of valves.

45. (New) A filtration system according to claim 42 wherein the first filtration means includes a plurality of filters, each filter having an unfiltered fluid inlet, an unfiltered fluid outlet, a filtered fluid outlet, and a filter medium positioned along a fluid flow path from the unfiltered fluid inlet to the unfiltered fluid outlet and wherein the second filtration means includes one or more but fewer than all of the plurality of filters of the first filtration means.